

Mapping Duxbury's Treasures

By the REV. ROBERT MERRY

I had in my Pittsburgh parish a widow recluse. She kept her Christmas and Easter duties but never took any part in the church's activities. I called on her frequently in my parish rounds and urged her to come out of her house and enjoy the outside world but her reply was always the same, "I just don't neighbor much." When she died the executor of her estate found thousands of dollars in cash stuffed under her mattress, along with stock and bond certificates. If she had only let loose of herself and discovered how enjoyable life could be when she put this cash to work for her, think how different her life would have been. I often lamented a life like this closed into itself when the power to enlighten and liberate it lay so close at hand.

I was never a recluse or much less a widow but in my early ignorance of Duxbury's past and present resources for human enjoyment, I certainly exemplified her point of view. Yes, I celebrated the landing of the Pilgrims and the First Thanksgiving and even acted the part of Myles Standish (and how that armor hurt to wear!) in Longfellow's famous play. But except for sharing in the (then) Sons of Veterans celebration of Memorial Day, I never came close to appreciating Duxbury's historic and recreational treasures. I swam in Blue Fish River stumbling over the remnants of ships' ways without ever giving a thought to what they signified of a glorious past. People have often expressed surprise at the alacrity with which I wrote of my growing up days here, but looking back a dozen years or so I think I was partly

trying to make up for my blindness of those early days. And when I returned in retirement after an effective absence of some 49 years I began to realize for the first time what a jewel of a living place this is. I looked in wonderment at this extraordinary piece of the planet earth and delighted myself as well as many others simply pointing out what we enjoyed here. There are some 65 of these essays on file, many of which were triggered by townspeople, especially the editor and publisher of the *Clipper*.

I was a regular visitor to the Duxbury Room at the Duxbury Free Library and I drove all over town checking out old houses and monuments: I was so fascinated by these discoveries and the abundance of them in our town that I began one essay with those famous words with which James Russell Lowell begins his "Vision of Sir Launfal":

*"Every clod feels a stir of might
An instinct within it that reaches and towers
And reaches a soul in grass and flowers
Whether we look or whether we listen
We hear life murmur or see it glisten."*

Such seemed to me to be the treasures of this corner of land and sea as they reappeared to me after a long absence. And I have always been grateful to the people of the *Clipper*, especially John and Roberta Cutler, and Priscilla Sangster, for mediating these sentiments to my fellow Duxburyites. Some of them have even suggested that I publish them in book or pamphlet form, but now I believe that is unnecessary since Joe Grady and Judi Barrett with the help of hosts of others in town have produced the new map describing most of them.

Taken as a whole Duxbury hosts a wide variety of activities and interests. There are beach people, bay people, tennis people and many golfers. There are bird watchers, woodland walkers, historical research-

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chers, cranberry growers, educators and myriads of others. As I summered here in the 50s and 60s I was a bay and sailing person. When I was thrust into the chairmanship of the Lands Committee and uncovered trails around Round Pond where my father harvested ice with a large storage ice house on the shore, I found a whole new career for myself. I have also been greatly heartened by people's response to the invitation to clean up our woods and roadsides, opening up whole recreational areas. All these interests Duxbury folks pursue, but as is only natural, concern is felt for only one or two areas without regard to the whole. Only a few and these mostly town officials have a view of the totality of Duxbury's resources for human enjoyment. Of course this was an understandable situation given the task of covering the entire town's geography, institutions, and recreational facilities. But now this is all changed.

For the first time in the history of Duxbury we have a compendium of all of these varied human treasures. It is simply called, "The New Map." Parks and Open Space Lands and Walking Trails Open to the Public, that is the printing on the title page, but it is much more than this, marking historic spots and depicting the various levels of ownership with corresponding restrictions. It is a tremendous achievement and bears the imprint of many minds. It is available for \$1.50 at the town offices and the Drew House, opposite the Cable House, in the executive offices of the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society.

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WALKING AREAS

32. Myles Standish Monument
36. Bay Farm Field
44. Lapham Woods
62. Bike Route
68. Waring Hill Preserve
70. North Hill Wildlife Sanctuary
72. Frederick Knapp Town Forest
73. Round Pond Trails
78. Loring Cranberry Bog
83. Thaddeus Chandler Sanctuary
84. Trout Farm
89. Garside Bog
95. Whiston Woods
96. Fernberg Bog

LANDINGS

5. Powder Point Bridge Landing
6. Clark Peterson's Landing
7. Simeon Soule's Landing
11. Dine Salt Works Landing
15. Anchorage Lane Landing
17. Bluefish River Landing
20. Town Pier, Mattakeesett Court
21. Winsor St. Landing
22. Water St. Landing
23. Josselyn Ave. Landing
31. Howlands Landing
35. Hicks Point Landing
38. Mill Pond
75. Island Creek Pond

TOWN FACILITIES

2. Duxbury Beach & Bathhouse
3. Duxbury Beach
14. Old Cove Landing
24. Sheppard Lane Beach
27. Hardin Hill Landing
34. Landing Road Landing
41. Central Fire Station
42. Mayflower Cemetery
47. Old Town Hall
48. Town Office Building
53. Art Complex Museum
58. Percy Walker Pool
59. Duxbury Free Library
67. Police Station
69. North Hill Country Club
88. Ashdod Fire Station
90. Dingley Cemetery
92. Ashdod Cemetery

CONSERVATION LAND

13. Back River Conservation Land
77. Old Meeting House Swamp
85. Ashdod Forest
86. Keene St. Conservation Land
87. Peterson's Saw Mill Pond

PLAYGROUNDS/FIELDS

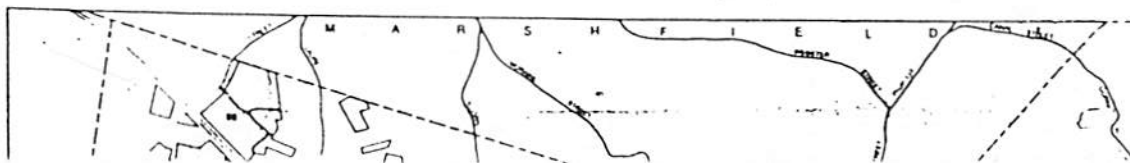
39. Wadsworth Rd. Playground
56. Alden Elementary School
57. Arthur Train Athletic Field
60. Intermediate School
61. Duxbury High School
79. Chandler Elementary School
80. Tarklin Community Center
91. Lincoln St. Playground
93. Keene St. Playground

HISTORIC SITES/MARKERS

4. Powder Point Bridge
8. King Caesar House
9. Bumpus Park/Weston Wharf
10. Spar Soak
16. Drew House
17. Shipyard Center/Tide Grist Mill
28. Nook Gate Site
29. Elder Brewster Homestead
30. Myles Standish Homestead
40. Myles Standish Cemetery
46. Charles Bunker Square
49. Genshom Bradford House
50. First School House
54. John Alden House
55. John Alden Cellar Hole
63. Ford's Store
64. Grist Mill Site
76. Tree of Knowledge

RESTRICTED ACCESS

1. Cable Hill
12. Great Harry Foot Island
18. The Cushman House
19. Duxbury Yacht Club
25. Cedarfield Home
26. St. Margaret's Convent
33. Captain's Hill Water Tank
37. Miramar Restored House
43. Partridge Rd. Water Supply
45. Depot St. Water Supply
51. Yacht Club Golf Course
52. Trumbull St. Water Supply
65. Millbrook Water Supply
66. Damon Water Supply
71. Mayflower St. Water Supply
74. Evergreen St. Water Supply
81. Lake Shore Dr. Water Supply
82. Birch St. Water Tank
94. Camp Wing



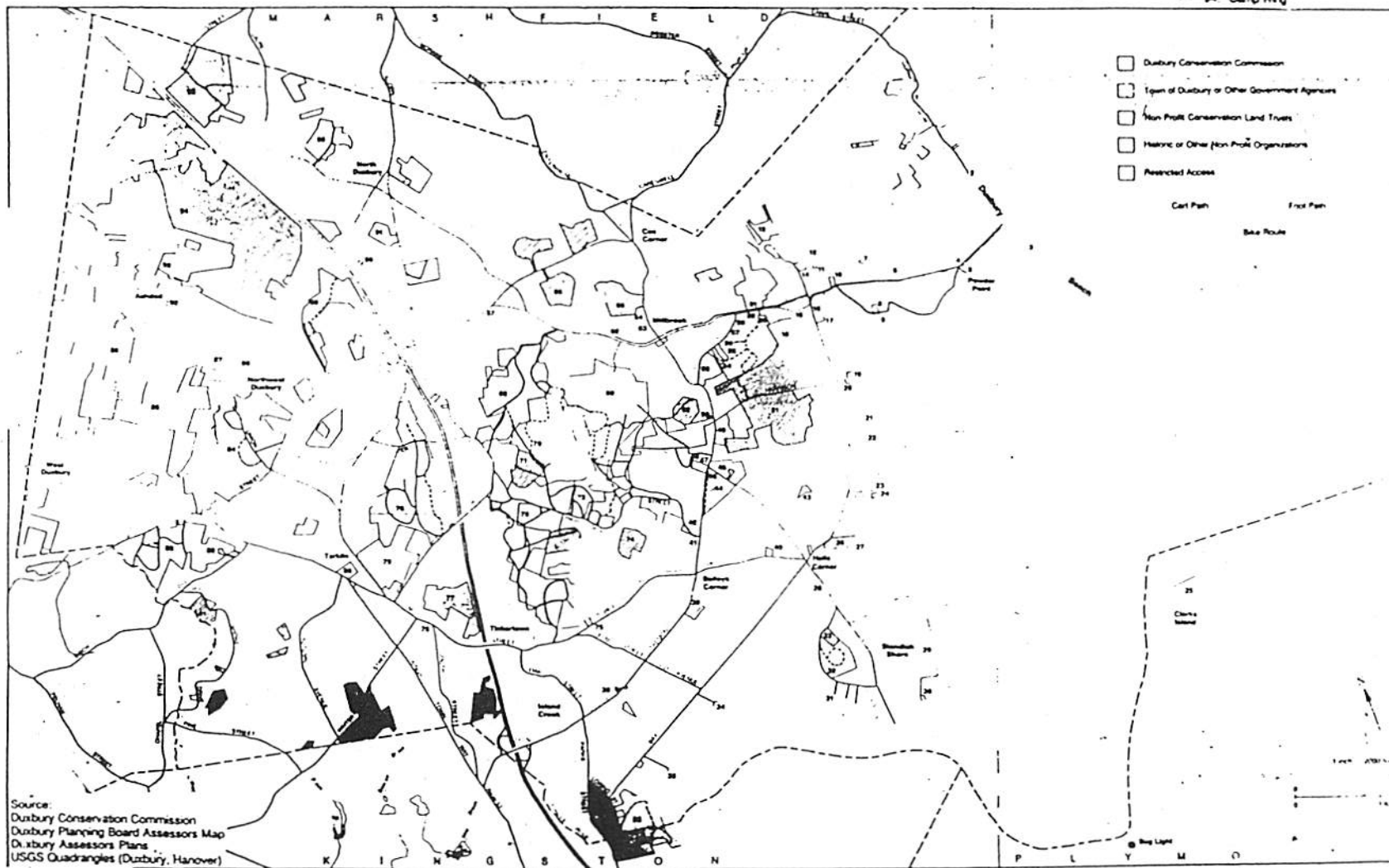
- ☐ Duxbury Conservation Commission
- ☐ Town of Duxbury or Other Government Agencies
- ☐ Non Profit Conservation Land Trusts

90. Ashford Fire Station
91. Dingley Cemetery
92. Ashford Cemetery

93. Lincoln St. Playground
94. Keene St. Playground

95. Ford's Store
96. Grist Mill Site
97. Tree of Knowledge

74. Evergreen St. Water Supply
81. Lake Shore Dr. Water Supply
82. Birch St. Water Tank
94. Camp Wing



Source:
Duxbury Conservation Commission
Duxbury Planning Board Assessors Map
Duxbury Assessors Plans
USGS Quadrangles (Duxbury, Hanover)

(P = Parking & capacity, NP = No Parking,
HS = Historic Site, HM = Historic Marker)

MAP NO. SITE NAME

1. Cable Hill
2. Duxbury Beach & Bathhouse: P, 1400 cars
3. Duxbury Beach
4. Powder Point Bridge - HM
5. Powder Point Bridge Landing: P, 40 cars
6. Clark Peterson's Landing: NP
7. Simeon Soule's Landing: NP
8. King Caesar House - HS
9. Bumpus Park/Weston Wharf - HM
10. Spar Soak - HS
11. Honest Dick's Grave - HM
12. Powder Point School - HM
13. Drew Salt Works Landing: NP
14. Great Henry Foot Island
15. Back River Conservation Land
16. Old Cove Landing: P, 4 cars

17. Anchorage Lane Landing: NP
18. Drew House - HS
19. Bluefish River Landing: P, 8 cars
20. Shipyard Center - HM
21. Tide Grist Mill - HM
22. The Cushman House
23. Duxbury Yacht Club
24. Winsor St. Landing: NP
25. Water St. Landing: NP
26. Josselyn Ave. Landing: NP
27. Shipyard Lane Beach: P, 30 cars (town res.)
28. Cedarfield Home - HS
29. St. Margaret's Convent
30. Harden Hill Landing: P, 8 cars
31. Nook Gate Site - HM
32. Elder Brewster Homestead - HM
33. Myles Standish Homestead - HS
34. Howlands Landing: P, 20 cars
35. Myles Standish Monument St. Pl.: P, 30 cars
36. Captain's Hill Water Tank
37. Landing Road Landing: P, 3 cars

38. Hicks Point Landing: NP
39. Bay Farm Field: P, 20 cars
40. Miramar Retreat House
41. Mill Pond: P, 2 cars
42. Wadsworth Rd. Playground
43. Myles Standish Cemetery
44. First Church Site - HM
45. Second Meeting House Site - HM
46. Central Fire Station
47. Mayflower Cemetery
48. Partridge Rd. Water Supply
49. Lapham Woods
50. Depot St. Water Supply
51. Charles Boomer Square
52. Old Town Hall
53. Town Office Building
54. Site of Partridge Academy
55. Genshom Bradford House - HS
56. First School House - HM
57. Yacht Club Golf Course
58. Tremont St. Water Supply
59. Art Complex Museum

60. John Alden House - HS
61. John Alden Cellar Hole - HS
62. Alden Elementary School
63. Arthur Train Athletic Field
64. Percy Walker Pool
65. Duxbury Free Library
66. Intermediate School
67. Duxbury High School
68. Blue Route (Blue Rack at Beach)
69. Ford's Store - HM
70. Grist Mill Site - HM
71. Millbrook Water Supply
72. Damon Water Supply
73. Police Station
74. Waring Hill Preserve
75. North Hill Country Club
76. North Hill Wildlife Sanctuary: P, 10 cars
77. Mayflower St. Water Supply
78. Frederick Knapp Town Forest
79. Round Pond Trails: P, 6 cars
80. Evergreen St. Water Supply
81. Island Creek Pond: P, 20 cars

82. Tree of Knowledge - HM
83. Old Meeting House Swamp
84. Loring Cranberry Bog
85. Chandler Elementary School
86. Tarklin Community Center
87. Lake Shore Dr. Water Supply
88. Birch St. Water Tank
89. Thaddeus Chandler Sanctuary
90. Trout Farm
91. Ashford Forest
92. Keene St. Conservation Land
93. Peterson's Saw Mill Pond: P, 2 cars
94. Ashford Fire Station
95. Genside Bog
96. Dingley Cemetery
97. Lincoln St. Playground
98. Ashford Cemetery
99. Keene St. Playground
100. Camp Wing
101. Whiton Woods: P, 2 cars
102. Fairbank Bog

policies on advanced college placement and grouping for instruction; DHS 1990-91 program of studies vote; budget presentations of K-5 and special education-related budgets. Votes will be taken, but audience-discussion not permitted on 3 topics: grade 6-12 students on the same buses, length of DHS school day and DHS 6- vs. 7-period day. Public discussions of these topics have been held and questionnaires received.

Additional letters to the school committee are invited up to the day of the meeting. Letters (one copy) should be sent to the superintendent's office, 130 St. George St. and will be copied for the committee.

Share a Gift

The Christmas season is approaching fast and the Alden PTA is planning its annual gift collection for the needy Share-A-Gift.

During the week of Dec. 4-8, small wrapped gifts will be brought into school by the students and collected in each classroom. The gifts will be distributed to residents of several area nursing homes by Brownie troops. All Alden students are encouraged to bring in a small as a reminder that Christmas is a time for reaching out and sharing with others.

MAPPING From Page 29

There have been many earlier Duxbury maps, the most famous probably being that of 1833 at the peak of the shipbuilding era. The most recent was done in 1970 by Lansing Bennett and John Nash when they were trying to delineate open space lands and invite people to help Duxbury acquire conservation land of which we enjoy some thousand acres today. This map is an attempt to tell the whole story of Duxbury's treasures in one sweep. Many helped but it was basically the brainchild of our diligent conservation administrator, Joe Grady. Joe's commitments to the welfare of this town reach a volume. He reminds me of one of our missionary bishops who served in the Northwest Territory and when he described what his areas of obligation were (including several states today) he was called the "bishop of all outdoors." I was happy to have had a small part in the making of the map, in the use of my essay on all the 13 granite slab markers set in place as part of Duxbury's celebration of its 300th anniversary in 1937.

Map-making goes as far back as the origins of the human race. Aborigines all over the earth used to draw sketches of the landscape on bark for their use in hunting. In the heyday of Egypt under Ramases and in Babylon, clay sketches of land contours were drawn and then fired into bricks. Perhaps the first systematic attempt at map-making was done by the Greek geographer Eratosthenes in 300 BC. The next ones were made by Ptolemy in 425 AD. Chinese, Arab, and Indian cartographers were also at work seeking to describe the world in which man existed. Some maps depicted man's total environment including the heavens as well as the earth.

For westerners, the first all-inclusive map of the world was made by a man named Mercator who drawing on all existing maps made a "projection" on a flat surface of the earth with its latitude and longitude lines as well as sketches of land and sea boundaries. This was in 1569. An early map of America including Cape Cod but focusing principally on Virginia was made by John Smith who as we know founded the first permanent colony in Jamestown, in 1607. We New Englanders are so hung up on the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620 we tend to

PARENT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
STUDENT NAME: _____
TEACHER: _____
GRADE: _____

forget this establishment as well as that of St. Augustine, FL in 1565.

Until now, the most detailed map of Duxbury was made in 1970 when John Nash, then chairman of the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society's lands committee and Lansing Bennett, an enthusiastic conservationist sketched boundaries of private and public lands, especially the open space land for which Duxbury folks are grateful. It was the first attempt to preserve public lands since the days of Frederick B. Knapp. It was a careful exposition of the town's land resources.

This new map goes far beyond anything the town has had before. It was 5 years in the projection and 3 years in the actual formation. It outlines in 5 colors the different types of land holdings and ownership, and includes historic spots, recreational areas and furnishes in a single sweep the entire gamut of what I like to call Duxbury's treasures. It is the kind of display of Duxbury as a prime residential area that would do justice to a luxurious travel cruise.

It is so single an achievement I wish it could have been handed out as people exited town meeting as John Nash tells me was done with the 1970 map. It was funded by a state grant of \$3,000 from the states' Bay Circuit Area and \$4,000 from the town's conservation commission. The map displays 96 different places of interest, mostly unknown to the public. It does so much more than show land borders; it indicates the 5 levels of ownership and this indeed will contain surprises. I for one was struck by 3 large parcels, Camp Wing, St. Margaret's Convent, and the Miramar Retreat Center of the Roman Catholic Society of the Divine Word. Judi Barrett's exhaustive explanation of the necessary restrictions of land use and other guidelines furnish us with trail guides that can give us confidence when walking into open space lands.

One organization that is particularly grateful for this map is the newly organized "Woodland Walkers" of the lands committee of the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society. Under the leadership of John Joline, these civic-minded folks have begun a program of adopting trails throughout Duxbury's woodlands to clean them of trash and then police them for 6 months to keep them neat. Roadsides will perhaps be adopted and then far down the road volunteers may be invited to clean up our streams and lakes and ponds to provide more avenues for the town's recreation.

I can liken this map to a situation I found in the country around my first parish in Wiscasset, ME. Here folks had adequate houses and farmlands, but they invariably used only one room for most of their living, namely the kitchen. I tried to urge them to open the sitting, living and dining rooms for their use. Up to now most of us have used only one aspect of Duxbury's treasures for living. Now we can appreciate much, much more of what the town has to offer. And our thanks are chiefly to Joe Grady who "hung in there" for these 3 years of hard and at times discouraging work. Emerson said, "An institution is the lengthened shadow of a man." So is an achievement like this.

